

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
*United States Attorney*  
*Western District of New York*

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*Buffalo, New York 14202*

# **PRESS RELEASE**

March 15, 2006

**RE: UNITED STATES V. DAVID PEROZZI**

Acting United States Attorney Kathleen M. Mehltritt announced today that the arrest last month of David Perozzi, 51, of Oakfield, New York, on federal child pornography charges was part of a nationwide and international investigation by the Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The nationwide investigation was coordinated by ICE from Chicago, Illinois. Perozzi was investigated by agents from ICE's Buffalo office, who arrested Perozzi on February 9.

Perozzi, of 3051 Broadway Road in Oakfield, is charged in U.S. District Court in Buffalo with possession of child pornography, for which the maximum penalty is ten years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Perozzi made his initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge Hugh B. Scott on February 9 and was recently released on \$25,000 cash bail, and numerous supervisory conditions. It should be noted that a criminal complaint against a defendant means only that he has been charged with a crime and is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

**(Disciplinary Rule 7-107(B)(6)).**

Mrs. Mehlretter said a seven-count indictment was returned yesterday in Chicago, Illinois, charging three other persons with conspiracy to possess, receive, solicit and distribute child pornography through the use of an Internet chat room called "*Kiddypics & Kiddyvids*." Perozzi is not charged in the Chicago indictment. However, the Chicago indictment refers to him indirectly by alleging that 27 individuals, using certain screen names, "and accessing the chat room from the following locations, participated in the chat room ... through chats and the sharing of files." In the list of 27 screen names that are set forth in the Chicago indictment, the 11<sup>th</sup> screen name and the location are given as:

**A\_School\_Teacher, located in Oakfield, New York**

Mrs. Mehlretter said this is the screen name allegedly used by Perozzi, and that he was a Sunday School teacher. Mrs. Mehlretter said 13 persons have been charged in Illinois, Tennessee, Michigan, Nevada, Florida, New York, Arizona and Hawaii as a result of the investigation, and that 14 others are charged in Canada, Australia, and Great Britain.

Mrs. Mehlretter and Peter J. Smith, Special Agent in-Charge of the Buffalo ICE Office, said the facts supporting the complaint against Perozzi included allegations that his computer had file-sharing capabilities, which allowed child pornography on Perozzi's computer to be accessed by others via the Internet. It is alleged in the complaint that an ICE agent, working undercover, accessed child pornography from Perozzi's computer in this way.

Special Agent Smith said the investigation that resulted in Perozzi's arrest was international in scope. Smith said, "This investigation uncovered child pornography and molestation suspects here in the United States and around the world. This kind of sick activity is why ICE officers here in Buffalo and law enforcement worldwide are dedicated to attacking these horrible crimes which victimize children in every nation."

Perozzi's next appearance before Magistrate Judge Scott is May 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.